

The Crackly Valve

Editor in Chief: The Prof



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Having recently been put out to pasture after many years bluffing his way in education, 'The Prof' has, in a moment of weakness, succumbed to the pleadings of The Godfather and agreed to put together a record of the proceedings of the NI Shadows and Newtownards Sandwich Club for the next three months.

Many thanks to **Ed Banger** and **Enrico de Bolica** for their excellent efforts in producing the previous issues. As seems to be customary I have taken the opportunity to re-christen the publication. So welcome to 'The Crackly Valve' which may or may not be spelt correctly but please, no complaining 'Letters to the Editor'. Anyway down to business ...

Wires, Wires Everywhere

As the members arrived the YF hall looked more like Mission Control NASA with enough wires to stretch from Lurgan to Donaghadee, rather like the members of the Club, as amps were 'Miked' up and DI'd and a barrage of monitors were lined up to face the intrepid performers who were soon to take to the stage. Thanks by the way go to Roy for building the monitor cabs.

Noises Off

Despite twiddling every knob in sight a strange noise emanating from the PA proved hard to track down until The Godfather discovered why it's a good idea to plug the bass guitar wireless receiver power supply in to the mains. Problem solved!

Let the Music Begin

George kicked off the day with faultless renditions of **Atlantis**, **Apache** and **Dance On**, though he may be better advised next time to wait until the drummer has managed to sit down on his drum throne before launching into his first number. **Hall** showed he is a true pro by picking up the beat perfectly.

Philip showed why **it's been a blue day** by messing up the tune of the same name and having to start over before wandering around the **Frightened City**.

Bernard had to be off asap to check his books but before leaving he accounted for four numbers, taking us from the Dark Continent with **Zambesi** followed by a quick trip to the New World of **Brazil** before taking on the strange story of **Flingel Bunt** and a fine if unintentional improvised solo in **Bossa Roo**.

Me and My Friend

Jim Bennett took the lead role for **Sleepwalk** and **Kon-Tiki** with his mate Phil on rhythm. Jim has clearly been practising as he delivered a fine performance of these two tunes.

Simon or 'Growler' according to the decal on the headstock of his new, almost-finished custom built axe, had to make do with his old Fender Strat but he still delivered the goods as he calmed things

down with **Peace Pipe** before raising the tempo again with **Foot Tapper**.

The young Hunters then wowed the audience with **Sam** giving us **Round & Round** and **Gonzales**, the younger Hunter managing to ignore the disparaging comments about his shorts – something to do with sparrows and nests? Elder Hunter brother **Paul**, who had made the wise decision to stick to the long trousers, unlike his sibling and father Roy, then took us to a **Wonderful Land** where we were soothed by a **Theme for Young Lovers**.



Jim²

Jim Tully proved once again he knows a good guitar when he sees one by turning up with a snazzy blue sparkle 25 year old Japanese Fender that he had just acquired.

He probably assured Mrs T that he was ‘just mending it for a friend’. The sound was spot-on as he gave us rousing renditions of **South of the Border** and **The Boys**, both backed admirably on rhythm by his namesake Jim B, all the more commendable as he had been seen not long before feverishly scribbling down the chords for **The Boys** from rhythm-meister George’s big black book.

The lead guitar stayed the same but the player changed as **Mark** then continued with **Wonderful Land** and **Apache** using the aforesaid blue Strat. Mark’s progress has been outstanding the last couple of months and whispered tales of special lessons have been heard. Whoever the teacher is he’s doing a great job. 😊

Newest member **Ollie** then took his seat on stage, literally, before settling down and giving us an excellent **Midnight** and the rarely heard but tuneful **Windjammer**. Ollie’s Custom Shop Strat managed to sound good despite being connected to the AC30 via what appeared to be a lead from an old iron.

Ole, Ole, Ole Ole

George ‘Manuel Rodriguez’ Turner then took us to the interval with a brilliant finger style performance on solo classical guitar of Mason William’s **Classical Gas** which had the entire room in raptures. When asked afterwards how long it had taken him to learn it he modestly said “About twelve years!”

The Interval

Thanks to **Maggie** for stocking up the Newtownards Sandwich Club with a fine selection of tasty sarnies and snacks which fortified the members and prepared them to boldly go and tackle the second half of the programme.



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